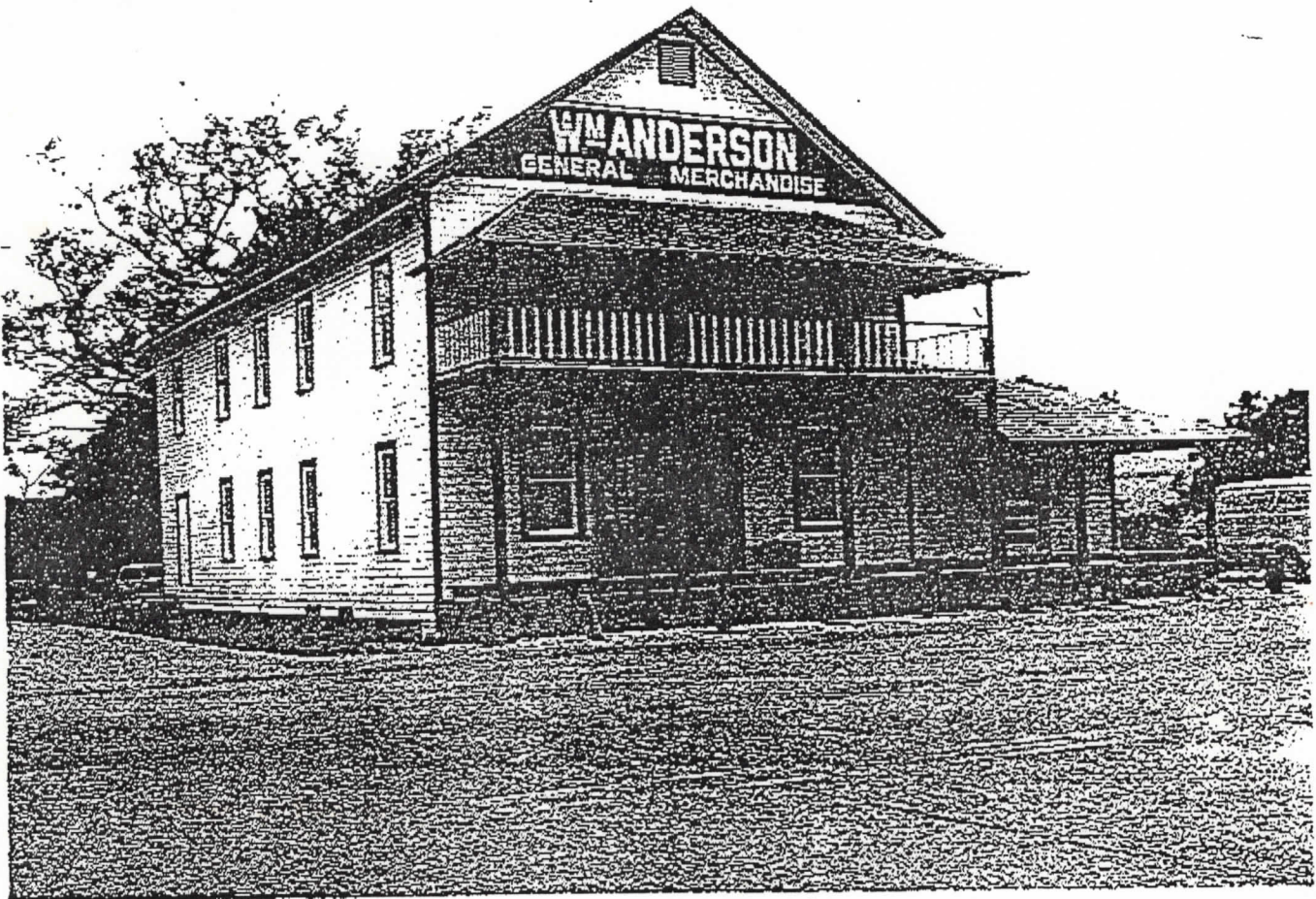
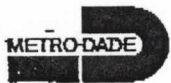


f/AC

DESIGNATION REPORT



SILVER PALM HISTORIC DISTRICT
ANDERSON'S CORNER COUNTRY INN
15700 S.W. 232 STREET (SILVER PALM DRIVE)
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33170



METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

SIGNIFICANCE

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (special) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | | |

Significance—Brief summary including documentary evidence that indicates the historical, architectural or archeological significance of the site.

The tremendous growth of Dade County between 1910 and 1920 was a turning point in the history of the county as it changed from a deserted country of swamps and mosquitos to the beginnings of urbanization. The population in the county quadrupled in that decade as more and more settlers arrived to take advantage of the newly drained swampland of the Everglades which formed the basis of extensive agricultural development. The widely dispersed population within the county did not have the necessary transportation to travel to larger towns for supplies. As a result, several general stores were established throughout the county to serve the needs of the outlying farms. Anderson's Corner is the only known example of these stores remaining in the county. It is indicative of the simple, utilitarian buildings constructed in the area during its rapid growth. These facts make Anderson's Corner one of the most important physical remnants of the settlement and growth of Dade County in the early part of the 20th century.

Historically, the Silver Palm area was known for its extensive pinelands and plentiful game. (Cadwaller, interview p. 5; Craig, p. 17; Thompson, interview) Will Anderson came to this area from Indiana in the early 1900s to join his friend and hunting companion Charles Gossman who was the first settler in the area. (Taylor, interview) Anderson decided to remain and homestead the land east of Gossman and west and south of the Perrine grant. (Bow and Horne Survey, 1914).

For several years, in addition to homesteading his land, Anderson operated a commissary car for the Drake Lumber Company. (Thompson, interview) These cars provided staples and necessities for workers in remote lumber camps. (Taylor, interview).

About 1911, Will Anderson established The William Anderson General Merchandise Store which sold everything from dynamite to lace. A Mr. Rawls constructed the store building with living quarters on the second floor for Anderson to use for his business. (Abstract; Cadwaller, interview, p. 6; Dade County Tax Information Sheet; Thompson, interview)

(Use additional sheets if necessary)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET ☒

SIGNIFICANCE—CONTINUATION SHEET

The lot was purchased from George S. Fletcher in May of 1912, and the building contract was given to Mr. C.A. Grossman in July 1912 .

1. "Silver Palm Notes." Homestead Leader [Homestead, Florida]
2 May 1912.
2. "Silver Palm Notes." Homestead Leader [Homestead, Florida]
12 July, 1912.

During earlier days homesteaders were forced to travel approximately fifteen miles by horse and wagon to the town of Cutler, on the coast for supplies. (Connolly; Craig, 13) The site selected for Anderson's Corner was located at the intersection of a rock road and a scarified road across the way from the Silver Palm School. (Bow and Horne, Survey; Cadwaller, interview, p. 8) Then, the hub of the community, this school building is still in existence today. (Fletcher)

It is significant that Anderson's Corner still stands basically as Will Anderson had it built. (See description) The building was operated as a general store until the mid 1930's. (Anderson) At that time Anderson's Corner was converted into apartments which involved the addition of partitions, windows, doors and rudimentary bathrooms and kitchens. These changes were imposed on the existing building in such a manner as to leave the original structure intact. (See description)

Will Anderson, Sr., died February 17, 1961, at 83 years of age (Lane, p. 1) and ownership of Anderson's Corner passed to his son William Anderson, Jr. (Land, p.3) who subsequently sold it on March 1, 1970, to James M. and Eleanor P. Cothron. (Abstract) Anderson's Corner was operated as apartments until 1974. In 1975 the building was condemned by the Unsafe Structures Board. A demolition reprieve was granted as plans were formulated for the building's rehabilitation. The structure was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, and designated a local historic-site in October 1981. Anderson's Corner's rehabilitation into a country inn and restaurant was completed in 1985.

Current Use (describe):
Country Inn and Restaurant

Current Condition:

☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Unexposed
☐ Unaltered ☒ Altered
☒ Original Site ☐ Moved _____

Physical Description of Site (see attached photos):

Anderson's Corner General Merchandise Store was built in 1912 and was typical of the rural frame architecture of that period. The building is a rectangular 2-story structure built of Dade County pine. It has a gable shingled roof. An interesting aspect of the roof framing is that the structure seems to have been built in a jig on the ground and put into place, which was unusual for carpenters of that day unless, of course, the carpenters had been ship builders. There is a two story porch across the entire front.

The building has horizontal lapped siding, double hung windows, and a simple balustrade.

The west side of the building has a single story shed roof addition that at one time had a metal roof but has been re-roofed with shingles.

Some changes were made to accommodate the building's recent rehabilitation as a restaurant. A simple concrete block structure with a gable roof was added to the west to serve as the kitchen. To the south of the property at the back of the house a staircase and ramps were built according to the county building code. This was done in a most discrete way taking into account the building's architectural character. The ground floor of the inside of the house is divided into two main sections, one being the restaurant and bar, the other a modern industrial kitchen. The second floor is set up in a way to accommodate private parties or meetings.